
Participating in Land Use Decisions

The City of Corvallis encourages, promotes and uses citizen input in its decision making. You can influence land use matters in the City of Corvallis by providing comments on a proposed land use action. When considering your comments, you should understand that the Planning Commission or City Council decisions are based on how well the proposal meets the requirements in the Land Development Code. The hearing body can therefore only consider testimony that speaks to the relevant criteria. You can find the criteria that apply to a particular proposal by visiting the City of Corvallis Planning Division.

Your participation in the land use decision-making process does not guarantee that the final decision will be the one that you favor. However, by providing comments, also called “testimony”, you ensure that your opinion is heard and considered by decision makers.

Different land use decisions allow for different types of input. Some decisions permit only written testimony, while public hearings allow both written and oral testimony. You can ask the Planning Division office what type of testimony is appropriate for the land use case.

Preparing Testimony

- **Know what you want to say.** Be sure of your facts when presenting or preparing testimony. Research the applicable sections of the Land Development Code and base your comments on the requirements. Stick to the issues and criteria of the application.
- **Use your own words.** You will be more comfortable and effective when using clear, direct language. Do not feel you need to use legal jargon when preparing your comments.
- **Be complete, but concise.** Decision makers are generally overloaded with information. They appreciate short, concise comments.
- **Be courteous and polite.** Personal attacks toward any participants, including those running the meeting, city staff, the applicants, or any audience members, tend to draw attention away from the important points you wish to make.
- **Know what is expected.** Contact the Planning Division to determine what type of testimony will be accepted. Written testimony may be submitted to the Planning Division office until 5 pm the day of the public hearing.

Additional Tips for Oral Testimony

- **Know what to expect at the hearing.** Many people find a public hearing intimidating. You may want to consider attending another Planning Commission or City Council hearing ahead of time so you know what to expect.
- **Consider visual aids.** Visual aids may be useful. Contact the Planning Division ahead of time if you need a projector. Make sure your visual aids are appropriate and readable.
- **Distribute copies of your testimony.** If you are providing oral testimony, it is helpful to the hearing participants to review a copy or outline of your comments. This is a good strategy for expanding on limited time at the podium. Some testifiers deliver a shorter version of a longer piece that they hand out.

Other Presentation Suggestions

Here are some other suggestions for effective delivery of your testimony:

- Maintain eye contact with the hearing body, not the staff, applicant, or audience.
 - Speak clearly and into the microphone so your testimony can be heard.
 - Instead of repeating information that has been adequately addressed, state your agreement with another’s comments.
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For Further Information

Community Development Department:

P.O. Box 1083
501 SW Madison Avenue
Corvallis, OR 97339
Planning: (541) 766-6908
Fax: (541) 754-1792

www.ci.corvallis.or.us/cd/planning

Land Development Code and Map:

The City's Zoning Ordinance

- Planning Division
- Downtown Public Library
- www.ci.corvallis.or.us/cd/zoning

Comprehensive Plan and Map:

Land use policies for the Corvallis City Limits/Urban Growth Boundary.

- Planning Division
- Downtown Public Library
- www.ci.corvallis.or.us/cd/compplan

Planning Commission Information:

- Planning Division
- www.ci.corvallis.or.us/cd/planningcommission

Public Hearing Staff Report:

Available from the Planning Division one week prior to the public hearing date.

- Planning Division
- www.ci.corvallis.or.us/cd/staffreports

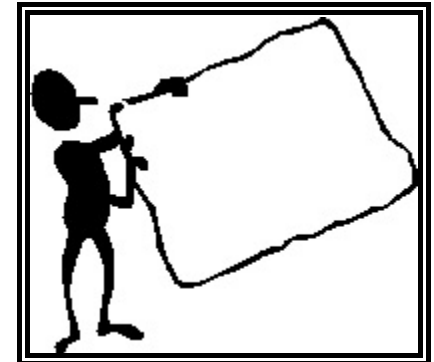
Committee for Citizen Involvement:

Facilitates citizen involvement in the City's land use planning and decision making.

- Regular meetings: first Thursday of each month, 7:15 PM at the Madison Avenue Conference Room. Citizens are welcome to attend.
- Contact the Planning Division at (541) 766-6908 for more information, or to request additional brochures.
- www.ci.corvallis.or.us/cd/ci

CORVALLIS LAND USE DECISIONS

Tips for Providing Effective Testimony



**You can influence land use decisions
in the City of Corvallis.**



City of Corvallis
Committee for Citizen Involvement
